

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T LISBON 4569

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AO US PO
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT EANES ON HIS
FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH AGOSTINHO NETO

REF: (A) STATE 156064, (B) STATE 146480

SUMMARY. I MET WITH PRESIDENT EANES ON JUNE 20 AND
CONVEYED TO HIM THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL,
FOR WHICH HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING
HIM THE GIST OF REF B. PRESIDENT EANES FURNISHED ME WITH
THE AGREED AGENDA FOR HIS MEETING WITH NETO, WHICH WILL
TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 24. HE ALSO GAVE ME HIS VIEWS ON NETO'S
SITUATION AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR WESTERN INTERESTS. END
SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO EANES THE AGENDA PROPOSED BY PORTUGAL
AND ACCEPTED BY NETO IS AS FOLLOWS:
 - I. A REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL PORTUGUESE SITUATION.
 - II. PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING
COUNTRIES.
 - III. A GENERAL EXAMINATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL
AND ANGOLA.
 - IV. A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON BILATERAL COOPERATION

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(A PORTUGUESE MISSION IS NOW IN ANGOLA TO SEE
IF ONE CAN BE WORKED OUT) WHICH WOULD COVER
THE FOLLOWING:
-- EDUCATION AND HEALTH.
-- MANAGERIAL COOPERATION TO RUN INDUSTRIES LEFT BEHIND
BY THE PORTUGUESE.
-- TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE ANGOLAN POLICE FORCE.

-- CULTURAL RELATIONS.

V. PROBLEMS OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS RESIDENT IN ANGOLA.

VI. PROBLEMS OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES RESIDENT IN PORTUGAL.

VII. BILATERAL COMMERCIAL/FINANCIAL DISPUTES.

VIII. PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY.

IX. ANGOLAN FOREIGN POLICY.

2. EANES ALSO DISCUSSED WITH ME HIS EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE MEETING. HE SAID THAT HE STARTED FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD AGREED TO THE MEETING INASMUCH AS HE BELIEVED THAT NETO WAS NOT A FREE AGENT IN SUCH MATTERS. HE SAID THAT ONE WONDERS WHAT THE RUSSIANS' MOTIVES IN ASSENTING TO THE MEETING MIGHT BE. ONE HYPOTHESIS WAS THAT THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS ARE ENCOURAGING "OPENINGS" TO THE WEST BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN OVER THE MILITARY OUTLOOK IN ANGOLA. THEY MAY BE FEARFUL THAT UNITA WILL EVENTUALLY OBTAIN ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS FROM WESTERN SOURCES WHICH WOULD THEN SEVERELY HAMPER MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST UNITA AND COULD EVEN TILT THE MILITARY BALANCE IN ITS FAVOR. THUS THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS SEE SOME RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN NETO AND THE WEST LEADING TO A POSSIBLE DEAL BY WHICH THEY WOULD AGREE TO PREVENT FURTHER KATANGESE INCURSIONS INTO ZAIRE IN EXCHANGE FOR WESTERN RESTRAINT IN SUPPLYING SAVIMBI. EANES IS INCLINED TO DISCOUNT THIS HYPOTHESIS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT THE SHABA INCURSIONS ARE PART OF A SOVIET/CUBAN
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STRATEGY TO WEAKEN THE MOBUTO GOVERNMENT BY DISRUPTING MINING ACTIVITIES IN SHABA, THEREBY FORCING MOBUTO'S WESTERN ALLIES INTO INCREASING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, JUSTIFYING THEIR OWN ADVENTURES IN AFRICA, AND HOPEFULLY BRINGING DOWN MOBUTO HIMSELF EVENTUALLY.

3. THE SECOND HYPOTHESIS, THE ONE EANES IS INCLINED TO FAVOR, IS THAT NETO IS EAGER FOR INCREASED CONTACTS WITH THE WEST AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO HIS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. THE RUSSIANS HAVE GONE ALONG WITH THE MEETING WITH THE PORTUGUESE BECAUSE THEY SEE ADVANTAGES IN GETTING PORTUGUESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE WEAK ANGOLAN ECONOMY. FROM THE RUSSIAN POINT OF VIEW, AN INCREASED PORTUGUESE PRESENCE IS PROBABLY THE LEAST OBJECTIONABLE OF VARIOUS WESTERN ALTERNATIVES.

4. EANES SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS THAT THE MEETING WOULD LEAD TO SOME SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENCE OF NETO FROM HIS SOVIET AND CUBAN ALLIES. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE BECAUSE HE FELT THAT IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBILITY, EVEN SLIGHT, OF COUNTERING SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCE AND PROVIDING NETO

WITH SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO TRY.
MOREOVER, HE WANTS A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH NETO IN
ORDER TO PERSONALLY GAUGE NETO'S SITUATION AND ASPIRATIONS.
BLOOMFIELD

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